

Remarks

Claims 1-23 are currently pending in this application. All claims are before the Examiner for consideration.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner stating that claims 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 16, 19 and 22 have been amended as independent claims and are presented to the Examiner. Claims 17, 20 and 23 were originally submitted as independent claims. These claims remain independent claims but have been amended to include the chemical formulas of the compounds being claimed.

Claims 1-15, 18 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Kiely *et al.* The cited reference is the inventor's own work describing a method of making stereoregular poly(glucaramides). The polymers produced by the cited method were not consistently stereoregular nor were they of a molecular weight to classify them as high polymers. While attempting to create larger polymers, it was found that the process of esterifying an aminoamido acid caused significant methanolysis of the amide bond of the starting material and generated a mixture of esterification products and alkylenediammonium dichlorides. This mixture of products did not provide the material necessary to produce consistent stereoregular polymers. Therefore, the method of the subject invention requires that esterification be conducted under conditions that limit alcoholysis of the amide bond. Controlling these conditions leads to more consistent esterified amidoamino acids which leads to more consistent stereoregular polymers (step b). The consistent stereoregular polymers, or prepolymers, can then be further polymerized (step c) to form even larger stereoregular head, tail-poly(alkylene D-glucaramides). The cited reference does not require step (a) be conducted under conditions that limit alcoholysis of the amide bond nor does the reference describe further polymerizing formed prepolymers (step c) into high molecular weight postpolymers. The subject invention is an improved method of providing higher molecular weight stereoregular head, tail-poly(alkylene D-glucaramides). The cited reference does not suggest or describe the method of the subject invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based on this reference is therefore respectfully requested.

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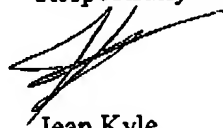
Docket No. UMT-105XC1
Serial No. 10/734,417

In view of the foregoing remarks and the amendments to the claims, applicants believe that the claims are now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Please charge Deposit Account 19-0065 the fee of \$300 for adding three additional independent claims to the subject application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 19-0065.

Respectfully submitted,



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